(b) whether the elementary school drop-out rate in West Bengal is much higher than the national average of 52.8%; and

(c) whether it is a fact that out of 1.4 crore school children who drop-out every year in the country, ten lakh are from West Bengal which is highest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data available with the Ministry, during 2003-04:

drop-out rate at primary stage (Classes I-V) in West Bengal is 33.46% as against the All India drop-out rate of 31.36%.

drop-out rate at elementary stage (classes I-VIII) in West Bengal is 63.77% as against the All India drop-out rate of 52.22%.

out of 97.5 lakh children dropping-out in the country at primary stage, 9.5 lakh are from West Bengal.

Swadhar Project at Kukatpally

2805. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Government to release second instalment to complete the construction project of SWADHAR Home at Kukatpally (R.R. District);

(b) if so, action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Second installment has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh on 28.4.2005.

(c) Does not arise.